



## *Town of Weare Conservation Commission*

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### Conservation Commission

Andrew Fulton, Chairman  
Stephen Najjar, Vice Chair  
William Bolton  
Sherry Burdick  
Lori Davis

Lisa Purington-Grolljahn,  
Alternate

## **CONSERVATION COMMISSION AGENDA – JULY 11, 2018 DRAFT MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 7:13 PM by Chairman Fulton

Members present: Andy Fulton, Steve Najjar, Bill Bolton, Lori Davis, and Sherry Burdick

Guests: Jeremy Turner and Jim Ferrante of MTL

Vice Chairman Najjar motioned and member Lori Davis seconded the motion to approve the March 14, April 11, and June 13, 2018 meeting minutes as written. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

### Planning Board items:

- Regarding a corrective/lot line adjustment plan for Timothy G. Farmer Revoc. Trust at Misty Lane, lots 101-57, 101-59, and 101-60, the commission noted that the proposed activity impacts the wetland non-disturb buffer. The plan was confusing and the reason for the proposed activity was not discernable.
- Regarding a lot line adjustment plan for Brian and Sandra Nichols at Mountain School Road and Balch Hill Road, lots 410-160 and 410-165, the commission noted that the plan should show the wetlands buffer on lot 165, particularly with a wetlands crossing. The commission was uncertain of the reason for the lot line adjustment.
- Regarding a lot line adjustment plan for Barbara and David Hibbard at Gould Road and South Stark Highway, lots 109-1, 109-5, and 109-6, the commission found the proposed setup to be unusual with a lot located wholly within another lot. The purpose was not clear and there were no wetlands delineated.
- Regarding a driveway plan for Jim Allatt and Judith Chimenti at Horse Spring Hill Road at River Road, lots 409-168, 409-169, and 409-170, the commission wanted to know whether there were any wetlands in the area of the proposed driveway. The commission was concerned that the proposed arrangements would create a drainage erosion and access concern with the proposed steepness of the driveway.

### NHDES/Wetlands Bureau items:

The commission noted receipt of three cc's on letters from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

- June 19, 2018 Shoreland Impact Permit 2018-552 issued to Gary Remillard with conditions noted without comment.
- June 21, 2018 compliance inspection report issued to Christopher Whiteman, 571 Concord Stage Road, file #2017-03385, for slash that was left in a vernal pool after a fall 2017 timber harvest noted without comment.
- June 22, 2018 notice of complaint received issued to Pitbull Realty Group, 351 South Stark Highway, file #2018-01865, for possible violations in placing fill in a wetland and conducting earth disturbance within the protected shoreland of Daniels Lake without permit or authorization. The commission expects to learn more on this complaint as the investigation matures.

Other non-agenda items:

Member Sherry Burdick inquired about the status of the B&B Lane private transfer station expansion. Mr. Fulton noted that he passed along comments to NHDES solid waste group within the required time frame. Ms. Burdick emphasized the importance of local decisions on these proposals.

The commission discussed the ongoing construction in creating Cortland Avenue at a former apple orchard. Mr. Najjar suggested that Mr. Fulton email Laura Spector (town legal advisor) to inquire whether we can put environmental reports into the registry of deeds for new lots in the subdivision and/or into the town property files. The commission is concerned that prospective buyers have awareness of the pesticides history of the property so they don't buy unknowingly. Additional concern is that the boundaries between the private lots and the town-owned open space are clearly demarked. Mr. Najjar suggested asking Meridian Land Services for a quote for putting up conservation easement signs.

Jeremy Turner of MTL presented his quarterly town forester report. He was joined by Jim Ferrante, also of MTL. Mr. Turner mentioned that the Ferrin Pond harvest activity has wrapped up. The post-harvest analysis looks good and the harvest was completed with minimal impact and income greater than projections. Final grading of the access road will be completed within the month. Admittedly, the forest looks different post-harvest but that is to be expected. The custom-built gate was installed on the existing posts and looks nice.

Mr. Turner discussed the preparation work for the upcoming Felch Farm Forest harvest. In general, the harvest is a 100-acre group selection with patches. He mentioned that he was working with UNH Cooperative Extension scientists Matt Tarr (wildlife biologist and forester) and forestry field specialist Ethan Belair on habitat enhancements that could be incorporated into the harvest plan. Mr. Ferrante has been at Felch one day a week for several weeks in preparation for the harvest. He has noted a lot of snow damage, lack of pine regeneration, and a third nut set making it three years in a row. Some of the operative keys include group selection and habitat development, early successional promotion, 2-age system with some even age as well, leaving some reserve areas, blending active and passive strategies. Mr. Najjar suggested considering whether controlled burn management might be incorporated as well. This will be considered. Mr. Ferrante noted that there was at least one existing peninsular location showing fire influence.

Mr. Najjar led a discussion regarding use of the term selective harvest, which can include gap level patch cuts (3-4 acre max) that leave functional components intact. There are grades of selection from large group selection, to small patch cuts, to patch cuts, to clear cuts. Less than group selection is considered an uneven age distribution. Mr. Ferrante mentioned that the selected option is somewhat guided by the operating parameters of modern machines which Mr. Turner admitted has its plusses and minuses. Mr. Ferrante also pointed out that some of the best operators in the world work in New Hampshire. Mr. Najjar also mentioned that some harvests make sense as cut to length operations where others are more conducive to whole tree harvesting, somewhat depending on the pulp and chip markets. Member Sherry Burdick inquired regarding the Poor Farm Forest work. She felt it was a mess and resulted in a terrible time trying to walk through the forest. Mr. Turner addressed the concern and mentioned that what is sometimes not very aesthetically pleasing is a great boon for the forest with enhancements going of the chart bio-wise. The harvest did result in a lot of brush being generated. The brush creates habitat and as it decays returns nutrients to the soil. The results can be very desirable. Ms. Burdick also inquired about all of the hardwood left behind and noted that cord wood collectors were trucking out loads after the harvest. It's all part of the style of harvest, intentional, and expected. However, the perception needs to be managed with education and where there are active trails these need to be noted and worked with.

Ms. Davis appealed for the commission and forester to get the word out about anticipated harvest work and the expected changes to the forest. Mr. Fulton mentioned that we have been trying to do so and will have to keep at it. Mr. Turner noted that he does try to hold events that pull folks into the wood on a Saturday morning 9-12 and sometimes there is a big turnout and sometimes not so much.

Regarding the Eastman forest, Mr. Ferrante will check the pollinator habitat status and consider invasives control there and elsewhere. Mr. Fulton suggested we ask Beth Ruse for a summary of payments against the town forest maintenance allowance for MTL work. Mr. Najjar **motioned** and Ms. Davis seconded the motion to approve up to \$5K from the 2018 Town Forest Account forest maintenance allowance for invasives control. All voted in favor and the **motion passed**. Mr. Najjar noted that there is probably about \$10K left unaccounted for from the approved allowance. In discussion, the commissioned affirmed that our relationship with MTL as town forester is good and that there is no need for re-evaluation. Mr. Fulton asked about the likelihood of purchase of additional town forest lands this year. Mr. Turner will consider potential strategic locations and may touch base with an owner about a lot of interest that may be available and would link up well with existing lands.

Mr. Najjar mentioned that the commission should have a look into the tax properties list of lots being considered for auction.

Mr. Fulton noted that Sinuosity is finishing up field and reporting work on the trails evaluation project.

Mr. Fulton and Ms. Burdick thought that lands between B&B Lane and Daniels Lake should be considered for conservation, potentially with interest in a source water protection area grant. Pennichuck has a well in the area.

Mr. Najjar, Ms. Burdick, and Ms. Davis spoke about the town Master Plan update that is in the works, with a committee formed. It has not been before the Board of Selectmen yet.

Ms. Davis motioned and Mr. Najjar seconded, all voted in favor, and meeting adjourned at 9:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andy Fulton (WCC Chair)